

Council on Postsecondary Education  
May 24, 2004

## Distance Learning Advisory Committee Report

*At its May 11, 2004 meeting, the Distance Learning Advisory Committee concluded a review of postsecondary distance education issues and opportunities with a recommendation to the Council that the scope of DLAC be expanded beyond its enacted role.*

Action: The Distance Learning Advisory Committee recommends that the Council approve the expansion of the scope of DLAC to include not only its statutory mandate to advise the Council on the operations of the Kentucky Virtual University but also to address the coordination of policies, programs, support services, and infrastructure in support of distance education across all Kentucky postsecondary education institutions.

At its October 1, 2003, meeting, DLAC established an eLearning Steering Team to lead a review and exploration of the status and role of distance education coordination across Kentucky's postsecondary education institutions and agencies. Over 70 participants, appointed by DLAC members, conducted the review. The participants were organized into a writing team, an eLearning Steering Team, and four work groups (policy, programs, support services, and infrastructure). The findings of this review were presented to DLAC at the May 11, 2004, meeting in the report: "Issues & Opportunities: The Kentucky eLearning Strategic Framework." A copy of the report is available at: <http://unity.kctcs.edu/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-4592>.

In order to better address and support the distance education opportunities identified in the report, the eLearning Steering Team has recommended the following goals for DLAC:

1. Develop the policies and relationships that fully utilize statewide institutional and agency resources.
2. Encourage and effectively support collaboration and coordination of distance education across the Commonwealth.
3. Support the identification, development, and delivery of high-quality distance education programs.

4. Ensure that Kentucky's teachers, faculty, and learners have access to support which enables success in learning and teaching across a multi-level, multi-course, multi-institution, multi-agency, and multi-site system of distance education.

The eLearning Steering Team also recommended a set of action items related to the goals (see attachment). DLAC endorsed the goals, the expansion of its scope, and the action items and established a Distance Learning Steering Team (constituted from the current eLearning Steering Team members) to address their implementation.

The work of the last several months has documented the growing use and broad scope of distance education in Kentucky. The expansion of the scope of DLAC's work will provide much needed coordination of distance education efforts and better integration of the KYVU into Kentucky's distance education plan.

DLAC Goal	Proposed Actions
<p>I. Develop the POLICIES AND RELATIONSHIPS which fully utilize statewide institutional and agency resources.</p>	<p>Ensure consistent distance education data collection, analysis and reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Produce a Kentucky Distance Education Annual Report that provides decision-making data and analysis for DLAC and institutional distance education planning.</li> <li>B. Work with statewide information technology committees to increase the coordination of statewide eLearning and distance education infrastructure throughout the Commonwealth.</li> </ul>
<p>II. Encourage and effectively support COLLABORATION and COORDINATION of distance education across the Commonwealth.</p>	<p>Support and actively sustain the Kentucky distance education community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Establish a Distance Learning Steering Team as the operational forum for addressing distance education issues.</li> <li>B. Utilize a Kentucky distance education listserv to increase awareness, understanding and participation in statewide distance education efforts.</li> </ul> <p>Increase the advocacy of, and for, Kentucky distance education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. Expand the Kentucky presence in regional and national distance education policy and regulatory issues.</li> </ul>
<p>III. Support the identification, development and delivery of HIGH QUALITY distance education programs.</p>	<p>Encourage the creation of distance education programs that meet the learning and training needs of Kentucky workers, employers, communities and citizens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Conduct a needs assessment to identify academic and workforce development program needs that can be addressed by distance education.</li> <li>B. Support the investigation of instructional models that are highly efficient, effective, scalable and economical; especially those that increase the efficiency of high demand courses and programs through redesign of instructional delivery (such as an online general education core).</li> <li>C. Address the effective communication and marketing of distance education programs, and their value, to Kentucky education communities.</li> </ul>
<p>IV. Ensure that Kentucky's teachers, faculty and learners have meaningful ACCESS AND SUPPORT which enables success in learning and teaching across a multi-level, multi-course, multi-institution, multi-agency, multi-site system of distance education.</p>	<p>Be a catalyst in establishing a network of Statewide Student Support Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Conduct distance education student focus groups as a precursor to statewide acquisition, management and maintenance of key support services.</li> <li>B. Work with teacher and faculty development work groups to identify and address faculty training issues.</li> <li>C. Address issues of accessibility in Kentucky distance education.</li> </ul>